

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 OC-06 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02

SY-05 MCT-01 AID-05 /110 W

-----055079 260533Z /13

R 250952Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7379

UNCLAS TOKYO 07375

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAL, ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: SPRING WAGE NEGOTIATIONS: PRIVATE RAILWAY
WORKERS SETTLE FOR APPROXIMATELY 6 INCREASE

REF: TOKYO 07134

1. PRIVATE RAILWAY WORKERS (SHITETSU SOREN), WHICH
HELD ONE DAY STRIKE APRIL 23 AND JOINED NATIONAL
RAILWAY UNION (KOKURO) AND OTHER MUNICIPAL TRANSPORT
UNIONS IN LAUNCHING NATIONWIDE TRANSPORTATION STRIKE
SHUTTING DOWN VIRTUALLY ALL RAIL, SUBWAY AND BUS
SERVICES MORNING APRIL 25, CALLED OFF STRIKE AFTERNOON
APRIL 25 AFTER ACCEPTING MANAGEMENT'S LATEST OFFER
OF AVERAGE 5.5 OR 8,800 YEN (\$39) MONTHLY WAGE
INCREASE. OVERALL, PRIVATE RAILWAY WORKERS OBTAINED
6.82 OR 10,900 YEN (INCLUDING ANNUAL BONUS
NEGOTIATED AT SAME TIME), AND THEREBY SET PATTERN FOR
THIS YEAR'S WAGE BOOST FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AS WELL
AS PUBLIC CORPORATION WORKERS. THEREFORE, WHILE
KOKURO AND OTHER PUBLIC ENTERPRISE UNIONS, WITH
CONSPICUOUS EXCEPTION OF POSTAL WORKERS (ZENTEI),
CONTINUING THEIR ILLEGAL WALKOUTS, THEY ARE EXPECTED
TO AGREE TO COMPULSORY ARBITRATION BY PUBLIC ENTERPRISE
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LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION AND TO RETURN TO WORK BY
TOMORROW EVENING.

2. POSTAL WORKERS CALLED OFF PARTICIPATION IN "GENERAL
STRIKE" AFTER POSTAL AUTHORITIES INDICATED THEY WOULD
STRICTLY ENFORCE LAST YEAR'S SUPREME COURT DECISION
UPHOLDING CONSTITUTIONALITY OF INVOKING CRIMINAL PENALTIES
AGAINST ORGANIZERS OF ILLEGAL STRIKES IN PUBLIC SECTOR.

GOJ HAS THUS SUCCEEDED IN BREAKING, FOR FIRST TIME, UNITY
OF SOHYO-AFFILIATED PUBLIC CORPORATION UNIONS WHICH HERE-
TOFORE HAVE PRESENTED SOLID FRONT IN ORDERING ILLEGAL
WALKOUTS DURING ANNUAL SPRING WAGE NEGOTIATIONS.
MANSFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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